

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USBERL 01068 221110Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 221050Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4422
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

S E C R E T USBERLIN 1068

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EXDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CE AND L/EUR

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, US, UK, FR
SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL: SENIOR LEVEL MEETING ON BERLIN AND
GERMANY (ASSESSMENT)

REFS: A) BONN 6593; B) BONN 6579

1. MISSION COMMENDS US REP BONN GROUP FOR EXCELLENT
DRAFT TEXT ON ASSESSMENT (REFTEL A).

2. WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN
TO SUGGESTION IN THIRD PARA OF SECTION D, ALLIED AND
FRG POLICY OPTIONS, THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO STRIKE A
BARGAIN WITH SOVIETS, WHEREBY ALLIED FLAG TOURS ARE
ELIMINATED IN EXCHANGE FOR COMPARABLE SOVIET UNDER-
TAKING. OUR CONCERN IS THAT WE CAN FIND NO COMPARABLE
POSSIBLE SOVIET UNDERTAKING IN BERLIN.

3. THE EXAMPLE PRESENTED BY BONN ILLUSTRATES OUR
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CONCERN. IN THAT EXAMPLE, THE SOVIETS WOULD UNDERTAKE
TO CEASE INTERFERENCE WITH THE EXERCISE BY THE
THREE POWERS OF THEIR SUPREME AUTHORITY IN THE WESTERN
SECTORS OF BERLIN. HOWEVER, ANY SOVIET AGREEMENT TO
CEASE PROTESTING INVITATION PROCEDURES, EC DEVELOP-
MENTS IN BERLIN, FRG INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN, OR FRG
REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN ABROAD, OR THE LIKE, COULD

BE EASILY REVERSED AT A LATER DATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, ONCE WE HAD STOPPED OUR FLAG TOURS, WE WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, FIND THAT OUR CESSATION WAS IRREVERSIBLE. FRIEDRICHSTRASSE GUARDS WOULD HAVE THE PHYSICAL ABILITY TO DENY ENTRY TO OUR VEHICLES, AND THE SOVIETS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY HAD BREACHED THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN, COULD BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT SUCH ACTION.

4. IN OUR VIEW, A QUID PRO QUO BARGAIN IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF WE CAN FIND A COMPARABLE SOVIET ACTIVITY REPEAT ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE TERMINATED IN EXCHANGE FOR ELIMINATING FLAG TOURS, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHOSE CONTINUED TERMINATION WE ARE IN A POSITION TO ENFORCE. IN OUR OPINION, THERE IS NO SOVIET ACTIVITY IN BERLIN WHICH MEETS THESE CRITERIA.

5. AS YOU ARE AWARE, SOVIET FLAG TOURS ARE NOT COMPARABLE IN NUMBER OR IMPORTANCE TO OURS. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE WISE TO ELIMINATE THEIR TOURS IN EXCHANGE FOR ELIMINATION OF OURS SINCE THE HALF OF OFFICIAL SOVIET VEHICLES ENTERING WEST BERLIN ARE NOT FLAG TOURS, BUT HAVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSE OF CONVOYING SOVIET PERSONNEL TO THEIR PLACES OF WORK IN INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY FOUR POWERS AGREEMENTS (BASC, SPANDAU) OR PERMITTED BY ALLIES (SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL).
GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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